

Remarks

The indefiniteness rejection of the claims with respect to the use of the term “input shaft” in lines 7 and 11 of claim 1 is not understood. The term “input shaft” in line 7 has reference to the “first wheel carrier” in line 6 and nearly denotes that such first wheel carrier has an input shaft. Similarly the term “input shaft” in line 11 has reference to the “second wheel carrier” in line 10 and denotes that such second wheel carrier has an input shaft. Applicants admits that additional verbage could be added to further relate such elements but that such verbage would only clutter what would appear to be an adequate recitation. Reconsideration of such objection respectfully is requested in view of the foregoing.

Claim 1 has been amended to provide for a first means for transferring drive directly downwardly from an output of the engine to an input shaft of the transmission which is disposed directly on the underside of the engine. In addition, new claim 58 has been added which is dependent on independent claim 1. Reconsideration of the rejection of the claims on the grounds of anticipation and obviousness also is requested in view of the following additional remarks.

Each of the claims clearly provides for the transmission being disposed directly on the underside of the engine, means for transferring drive directly downwardly from an output shaft of the engine to an input shaft of the transmission. In all due respect, none of the cited references to Wohlfarth, Kawamoto et al or Ima either discloses or teaches such structure. Wohlfarth discloses an arrangement wherein the transmission 22 is disposed along the side of engine 24 and not directly on the underside thereof, and the means for transferring drive downwardly is from an output shaft of transmission 26 and not from an output shaft of engine 24. Furthermore, the component designated by the reference numeral 30 disposed on the underside of engine 24 is an axle transmission which receives drive through transmission 26 , transfer gear box 28, output drive 43 and connecting shaft 45. Clearly, drive is not transmitted directly downwardly from engine 24 to axle transmission 30 or transmission 26.

Kawamoto et al discloses an arrangement consisting of an engine 3 provided with a transversely disposed crankshaft 36. Drive from crankshaft 36 which is disposed transversely and not longitudinally as in the claimed arrangement is transmitted laterally and then rearwardly. In this

regard, the Examiner's attention is invited to page 3, paragraph 0050 of the specification of Kawamoto et al which states:

A crankcase 10 included in the engine 3 extends rearwardly and a transmission case 11 is joined to the rear end of the crankcase 10. A gear transmission 13 is built in the transmission case 11. A variable-speed V-belt drive 15 is disposed on the right side of a crankcase 10. The output power of the engine 3 is transmitted through the variable- speed V-belt drive 15 to the gear transmission 13.

The Ima patent relates to a multi wheel drive vehicle which includes an engine 3, a transmission 13, a transversely disposed engine output shaft 6, a transmission input shaft 5 and a split pulley assembly for transmitting drive from the engine to the transmission. However, nowhere in the drawings, specification or claims of such reference is it indicated that transmission 13 is disposed directly underneath engine 3.

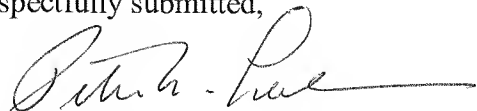
The present invention particularly is applicable to vehicles having bodies of a monocoque construction such as military and paramilitary vehicles in which personnel and material are carried. In such vehicles, it is desirable and thus sought to be provided an interior space adapted to accommodate a maximum number of such personnel and amount of material. By stacking the engine and transmission in such vehicles, the usable interior body space of such vehicles correspondingly is increased.

Newly submitted claim 58 which is depended on claim 1 provides for the disposition of a stacked engine and transmission in a monocoque body of a vehicle. Clearly, none of the references of record discloses or teaches any such arrangement.

In view of the forgoing, it respectfully is requested that the rejection of claims 1 through 6, 10 through 16, 19, 21, 24, 26, 35, 36 and 46 through 48 be withdrawn, such claims and newly submitted claim 58 be allowed and further that the application be passed to issue.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 14-1437, under Order No. 8375.004.US0000.

Respectfully submitted,



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